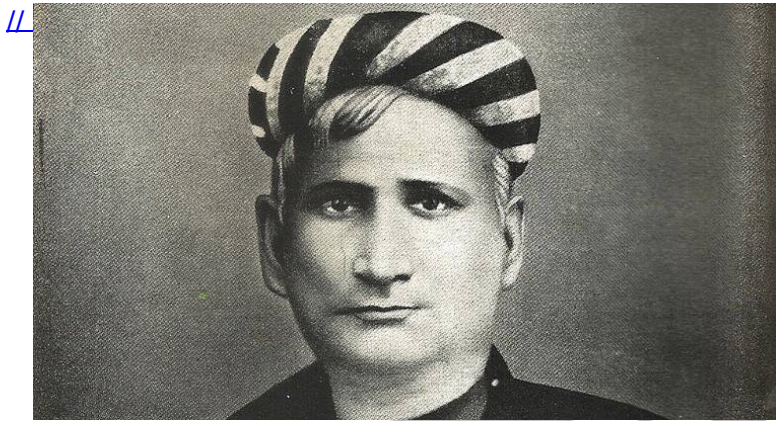




# Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

## Why in News

Indian Prime Minister paid homage to Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his Jayanti on 27<sup>th</sup> June.



## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- He was **one of the greatest novelists and poets of India.**
- He was **born on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1838 in the village of Kanthapura** in the town of North 24 Parganas, Naihati, present day **West Bengal.**
- He **composed the song Vande Mataram in Sanskrit**, which was a source of inspiration to the people in their freedom struggle.
- In 1857, there was a strong revolt against the rule of East India Company but Bankim Chandra Chatterjee continued his studies and passed his B.A. Examination in 1859.
  - The Lieutenant Governor of Calcutta appointed Bankim Chandra Chatterjee as Deputy Collector in the same year.
- He was **in Government service for thirty-two years** and retired in 1891.
- He **died on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1894.**

### ▪ Contributions to India's Freedom Struggle:

- **His epic Novel Anandamath** - set in the background of the **Sanyasi Rebellion (1770-1820)**, when Bengal was facing a famine too - made Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay **an influential figure on the Bengali renaissance.**
  - He kept the people of Bengal intellectually stimulated through his literary campaign.
  - India got its national song, **Vande Mataram, from Anandamath.**
- He also **founded a monthly literary magazine, Bangadarshan, in 1872**, through which Bankim is credited with influencing the emergence of a Bengali identity and

nationalism.

- Bankim Chandra wanted the magazine to work as the medium of communication between the educated and the uneducated classes.
- The **magazine stopped publication in the late 1880s**, but was **resurrected in 1901 with [Rabindranath Tagore](#) as its editor**.
- While it carried Tagore's writings - including his first full-length novel Chokher Bali - the 'new' Bangadarshan retained its original philosophy, nurturing the nationalistic spirit.
- During the **Partition of Bengal (1905)**, the magazine played a vital role in giving an outlet to the voices of protest and dissent. Tagore's Amar Sonar Bangla - the national anthem of Bangladesh now - was first published in Bangadarshan.

▪ **Other Literary Contributions:**

- He had studied Sanskrit and was very interested in the subject, but later took on the responsibility to make Bengali the language of the masses. However, his first published work - a novel - was in English.
- His **famous novels** include Kapalkundala (1866), Debi Choudhurani, Bishabriksha (The Poison Tree), Chandrasekhar (1877), Rajmohan's wife and Krishnakanter Will.

### Sanyasi Rebellion

- The Sanyasi Uprisings took place in Bengal between the periods of **1770- 1820s**.
- The Sanyasis rose in rebellion after the great famine of 1770 in Bengal which caused acute chaos and misery.
- However, the immediate cause of the rebellion was the **restrictions imposed by the British upon pilgrims visiting holy places** among both Hindus and Muslims.

**[Source: PIB](#)**

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